IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 6-10, and 21-25, and add new claim 26 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A retractable cover for covering structures, the cover comprising:

a flexible material portion; ~~including thereon or adapted to include means for attachment of~~

at least one biasing means along ~~the~~ an extendable length of the flexible material portion, the at least one biasing means providing for retraction of the flexible material portion from an extended state to a rolled-up state; and

means for attachment of the at least one biasing means to the flexible material portion.

2. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 1 wherein the biasing means is of a length relative to at least a predetermined extendable length of the flexible material portion.

3. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 2 wherein the biasing means is a spring.

4. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 3 wherein the biasing means is a constant force spring.

5. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 3 wherein the biasing means is a variable force spring.

6. (currently amended) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 5 wherein [[,]] ~~where~~ the biasing means is a variable force spring, the retraction force of the spring can be selected from a range of about 0.25 kg to about at least 50 kg as determined by one or more of at least the weight of the flexible material portion, the dimensions of the flexible material portion, and the structure to be covered.

7. (currently amended) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 4 wherein the biasing means is ~~restrained~~ attached permanently to the flexible material portion via use of ~~restraining~~ the attachment means, wherein the attachment means is selected from the group consisting of:

a) an adhesive; and

b) welding means.

8. (currently amended) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 4 wherein the biasing means is ~~provided~~ attached in a removable relation to the flexible cover via use of ~~restraining~~ the attachment means, wherein the attachment means is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a hook-and-pile system attached both to the flexible material portion and to the biasing means in a complementary manner;

b) a full sheath capable of enclosing a substantial portion of the biasing means;

c) a partial sheath capable of providing ~~retaining~~ the attachment means to one or more designated portions of the biasing means; and

d) attachment apparatus, including screws, bayonet fittings, domes, and buttons.

9. (currently amended) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 8 wherein the flexible material portion forms the sheath.

10. (currently amended) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 9 wherein the sheath is sewn ~~on to~~ onto the flexible material portion.

11. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 9 wherein the sheath is configured to allow access to the biasing means.

12. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 11 wherein the sheath includes a zipper.

13. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 12 wherein either or both the flexible material portion and the structure includes means for securing the cover relative to the structure with which the cover is used.

14. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 1 wherein the retractable cover includes at least one affixing means for removably restraining the cover in an extended form to cover a surface of the structure with which the cover is used.

15. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 14 wherein the affixing means enables the cover to be restrained at any position along its extendable length to effect a partially or completely rolled-up cover as required.

16. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 15 wherein the affixing means is at least one zipper.

17. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 16 wherein each zipper is double sided.

18. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 14 wherein the affixing means is a hook-and-pile fastener complementarily located on both the cover and the structure with which the cover is used.

19. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 14 wherein the affixing means is magnetic means complementarily located on both the cover and the structure with which the cover is used.

20. (original) A structure incorporating a retractable cover, as claimed in claim 1.

21. (currently amended) A method of adapting an existing cover having a flexible material portion with an extendable length for covering an opening or enclosure, the method comprising the step of:

~~incorporating the biasing means to~~ attaching at least one biasing means along the extendable length of the flexible material portion of the existing cover.

22. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a retractable cover for covering structures, the cover including a flexible material portion, the flexible material portion including thereon, or adapted to include means for attachment of, at least one biasing means along ~~the~~ an extendable length of the flexible material portion, the at least one biasing means providing for retraction of the flexible material portion from an extended state to a rolled up state, the method comprising the steps of:

a) determining the dimensions of the structure with which the cover is intended to be used and preparing the flexible material portion to the predetermined dimensions, and including therewith; and

b) arranging the at least one biasing means ~~arranged~~ relative to a substantial portion of the extendable length of the flexible material portion in a permanent or removable arrangement by use of restraining means, the restraining means being added to or being a portion of the flexible material portion.

23. (currently amended) A method of varying retraction of a retractable cover for covering structures, the cover including a flexible material portion, the flexible material portion including thereon, or adapted to include means for attachment of, ~~at least one~~ a first biasing means along ~~the~~ an extendable length of the flexible material portion, the biasing means providing for retraction of the flexible portion from an extended state to a rolled up state, the method comprising the steps of:

a) determining one or more of at least the weight of the flexible material portion, the dimensions of the flexible material portion, the structure to be covered, and the retraction force of the first biasing means; and

b) providing ~~additional~~ a second biasing means attached along the extendable length of the flexible material portion.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of providing ~~additional~~ the second biasing means includes the step of:

b1) replacing the first biasing means with ~~a new~~ the second biasing means of greater force.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of providing ~~additional~~ the second biasing means includes the step of:

b2) adding ~~additional~~ the second biasing means to the flexible material portion to effect a combined retraction force in accordance with predetermined retraction force requirements.

26. (new) A retractable cover for covering structures, the cover comprising:

a flexible material portion;

means for attachment; and

at least one elongate biasing means operable between an extended state and retracted state, the at least one elongate biasing means being maintained by the means for attachment along an extendable length of the flexible material portion, the at least one biasing means providing for retraction of the flexible material portion from an extended state of the flexible material portion to a rolled-up state of the flexible material portions.